



Press Release

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## **AgroCycle in China for Pioneering Conference on Up-Cycling of Agricultural Residue**

Over 200 representatives from policy, academia and industry in attendance at collaborative China-EU event: “Agricultural waste and residue management for a circular bioeconomy: Shared China and EU impact-oriented solutions”

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018, the Horizon 2020 projects AgroCycle and NoAw came together in Beijing, China for a joint conference on the management of agricultural waste and residue. The research undertaken by partners in both projects is paving the way for technological advances in the circular bioeconomy. AgroCycle and NoAw are funded by the European Commission with additional funding from the Government of People’s Republic of China.

Day 1 of the conference began with an overview of developments in the Circular Economy in the EU and China. Nicholas Dandois, Counsellor for Agriculture - EU Delegation to China, outlined policy developments in relation to the Circular Economy at a European level. In the afternoon session emerging challenges in up-cycling agricultural residue into bio-products were highlighted, such as the role of bioplastics. Day 2 of the conference focused on results emerging from both projects and future research priorities such as digestate management. In the afternoon session attendees gained insight into the Stakeholder platforms currently under development within the projects along with emerging novel business value chains.

The conference concluded with two parallel sessions; a networking and brokerage Session to explore business and research collaboration between Europe and China as well as a dedicated session for young stakeholders, which enabled Sino-European researchers to exchange views in a dynamic forum. This culminated with a mini-project competition where the young stakeholders brainstormed and put forward their ideas for the next EU-China projects on agricultural waste management. Prof Shane Ward (University College Dublin); co-ordinator of the AgroCycle project said, “The joint mission to China was a successful collaboration with both our partners from China and our colleagues in NoAw that will stimulate future collaboration between China and the EU in the Circular Bioeconomy”.

Following the conference, the AgroCycle team had the opportunity to see the Circular Economy emerging in China through a number of site visits with Chinese Agricultural University and Nanjing Tech University, including the Deqingyuan Eco Farm, the Nanjing Jufeng Advanced Material Co. Ltd. which is producing recyclable natural fiber-reinforced plastic composite and Nanjing Ningliang Biological Engineering Co. Ltd. which specialises in the development of agricultural microbial agents and organic fertilisers. Dr Tom Curran (University College Dublin); leader of the AgroCycle project stated: “We are grateful for the welcome we received from our partners in China. AgroCycle is now entering its final phase, with a focus on disseminating and communicating our research to key stakeholders”.



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# 中欧农业废弃物循环利用国际会议

Agricultural waste and residue management for a circular bio-economy: Shared China and EU impact-oriented solutions

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